

Posted: July 30, 2003
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**UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
WASHINGTON, D.C.**

Served: August 4, 2003

In the Matter of

**Application for Approval of Agreement by the
International Air Transport Association**

Docket OST-2003-14480

NOTICE

On February 7, 2003, the International Air Transport Association (IATA) filed an agreement in the above-captioned docket for approval. On February 26, 2003, in response to a request from the High-Tech Air Freight Shippers Coalition (the Coalition) for a 90-day extension of the normal 21-day comment period, we extended the comment period to May 29, 2003. Numerous comments were received on the record by May 29.

On June 9, 2003, IATA submitted a request for approximately 30 days in which to respond to the comments.^{1/} On June 24, we granted IATA's request, and it filed responsive comments on July 9.

On July 15, the Coalition filed a request for a 30-day period to reply to IATA's responsive comments. In support of its request, the Coalition states that IATA presented new information and a variety of additional argumentation in its July 9 filing, and that parties should have an opportunity to respond.

On July 21, IATA stated that it will not object to the Coalition's request. However, IATA also wished to make it clear that IATA's member carriers support the application filed in February and want the Department to act favorably on the application as soon as possible after the ad hoc procedures that apply to this matter are completed.

We believe that the same reasons that warranted a 90-day extension of the initial comment period, and a 30-day period for IATA to file responsive comments, apply equally to the Coalition's request. Permitting the Coalition and other parties to file replies to IATA's responsive comments by August 15 will assist in developing an adequate record for decision, and will not appreciably delay our review process.

^{1/} Since Subpart E of Part 303, which establishes procedures for the review of inter-carrier agreements, does not specifically provide for responses to comments, we have treated these requests for successive rounds of comments as motions to file otherwise unauthorized documents under Part 302.6.

Therefore, acting under authority assigned to the Director, Office of International Aviation, 14 CFR 385, we establish a date of August 15, 2003, for the filing of replies to IATA's response to comments previously received on the agreement in the above-captioned docket.

We will serve this notice on all interested parties who have filed pleadings in the docket and served IATA .

By:

PAUL L. GRETCH
Director
Office of International Aviation

(SEAL)

Dated: July 30, 2003

*An electronic version of this notice is available on the World Wide Web at
http://dms.dot.gov/reports/reports_aviation.asp*